

Bill Would Require DHS to Deport Illegal Immigrants Convicted of Crimes

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today introduced legislation requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to deport criminal aliens – illegal immigrants who have been convicted of crimes – upon their release from incarceration.

“If you’re here illegally and you commit a crime, you should serve your sentence and then go back to your home country,” Rooney said. “You cannot stay here and continue to commit crimes against our citizens.

“We have seen too many tragic incidents where Americans have lost their lives in crimes committed by illegal immigrants who already have been through the justice system,” Rooney wrote in an op-ed in The Washington Times today announcing introduction of the bill.

Although criminal aliens are eligible for deportation, ICE often fails to identify and transfer them before they are released. Under current law, if ICE is not present to transfer criminal aliens when their sentences end, officials must release them back onto the streets.

Rooney’s bill, the Criminal Alien Removal Act, would require DHS to ensure that criminal aliens are removed from the United States upon release from incarceration. The bill would allow prison officials to hold criminal aliens after their sentences end to make sure they can be transferred into federal custody and removed from the United States.

“Passing the Criminal Alien Removal Act and requiring DHS to deport criminals who are here illegally will send a message that we are serious about securing our borders and protecting American citizens,” Rooney said.

To view the text of the bill, please click [here](#):

[CriminalAlienRemovalAct_2011.pdf](#)

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